REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending. Claims 1-14 stand rejected. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 13 and 14 have been amended. Claims 2 and 8 are canceled. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following comments the Applicants respectfully request allowance of the application.

THE CLAIMS ARE STATUTORY

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed towards non-statutory subject matter. Claim 13 has been amended to read "computer-readable medium" from "computer program product" as suggested by the examiner. It is believed that the rejection has been overcome and the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

THE CLAIMS DEFINE OVER THE PRIOR ART

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by IEEE publication titled: "A Human-Perception-Like Image Recognition System Based on PAP Vector Representation with Multi Resolution Concept" (Yagi). The Applicant traverses.

Independent claims 1, 7, 13 and 14 have been amended to recite, in part:

> wherein the evaluation value and the class are
> identified for each of a plurality of the predetermined
> positions of the inputted image, and making the
> evaluation value and the identified class of said
> reference pattern correspond to the predetermined
> position, and create a distribution map.

The limitation is not taught by the prior art. Yagi does not disclose a distribution map created from both a class and evaluation value. Yagi merely discusses a distribution map of a similarity evaluation. Yagi states, "The dissimilarity contour map (the map of Manhattan distance values) is demonstrated in Fig. 6." Yagi does not disclose a map created from the class and evaluation value as do the claims. Therefore for at least the foregoing reason claims 1, 7, 13 and 14 define over the prior art.

Furthermore, concerning dependent claim 3, 4, 9 and 10, the limitation of creating a one-dimensional data row from the distribution map is not taught by Yagi. Yagi merely discusses a method of extracting contour information and converting contour information to a vector expression. Yagi does not teach creating a one-dimensional data row from a distribution map created from both a class and evaluation value. Therefore, for at least the foregoing reason and as further limitations on independent claims 1 and 7, claims 3, 4, 9 and 10 define over the prior art.

Finally, concerning dependent claims 5, 6, 11 and 12, as further limitations on independent claims 1 and 7, claims 5, 6, 11 and 12 define over the prior art.

For the foregoing reasons, the Applicant respectfully asserts that the claims define over the prior art and requests withdrawal of the rejection.

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Prompt consideration and allowance are solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4255 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

Applicants do not believe that any additional fees are required in connection with this submission. Nonetheless, Applicants authorize payment of any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 or credit of any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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